GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether comments/suggestions from various State Governments on new National Tourism Policy have been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the comments/suggestions made by them;

(c) whether the draft of new policy has been cleared by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the salient features of the new policy along with the details of comments/suggestions of the State Governments incorporated in the new policy;

(e) whether the Government plan to revise the existing Tourism Policy to attract investment for rapid development and employment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.114 BEANSWERED ON 1-3-2001 REGARDIN(NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY

(a) and (b): The draft of new National Tourism Policy was circulated among the State Governments/U.T. Administrations inviting their comments/suggestions. The comments/suggestions have been received from Governments of Gujarat, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Mizoram. The main suggestions are indicated below:
i) Development of package of incentives to facilitate visits of international tourists to new destinations.
ii) Steps for diversification to health resources, conference/convention tourism avenues, etc. to ensure long term viability of tourism sector.
iii) Encouragement of private investment for promotion programmes in the tourism sector.
iv) Development of research and database on tourism.
v) Larger financial assistance for non-construction projects in various States.
vi) Decentralisation of power in the matter of approval of new hotel projects and delegation of power to the State Governments for sanction of interest subsidy and its distribution.
vii) Special strategy for development of tourism and infrastructural facilities in North Eastern States, particularly creation of enabling environment to facilitate the visits of tourists to these States giving due regard to the values and the culture of local people without compromising integrity.

(c): No, Sir,

(d): Does not arise.

(e) and (f): A draft Policy prepared by the Department of Tourism includes action plans for promoting tourism as an instrument for employment generation and economic development by encouraging public and private partnership for sustained growth of tourism, facilitating foreign investment and incentives for hotel and related tourism industries, facilitating larger flow of funds to tourism infrastructure, etc.

(g): The draft of the new Tourism Policy has been put in the official portal of the Department of Tourism soliciting comments/views from all concerned.